

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-49 are pending in the application prior to this amendment.

The Examiner allows claims 18-20, 23-27 and 31-33. The Examiner indicates allowable claims 9-17, 22 and 35 if rewritten in independent form including all the limitation of the base and any intervening claims. The Examiner indicates allowable claims 1-4 and 28-30 if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112 we detail below. The Examiner rejects claim 21 and 34 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Hadwiger, et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,738,845). The Examiner rejects claims 5-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zaidi, et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,601,126) in view of Marks (U.S. Pat. No. 5,894,586).

The applicants amend claims 1, 9 and 28 and cancel claims 5-8, 21-22, 34-35 and 47-49. Claims 1-4, 9-20, 23-33 and 36-46 remain in the application after entering this amendment.

We note the Examiner did not include comment on claims 36-49 added in the immediately previous amendment. The applicants, however, have attempted to interpret their standing based on the Examiner's thorough comments on other pending claims.

The applicants add no new matter and request reconsideration.

**Claims Allowed**

The applicants thank Examiner Mason for allowing claims 18-20, 23-27 and 31-33.

**Claims Allowable**

The Examiner indicates claims 9-17, 22 and 35 as allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base and any intervening claims.

The applicants rewrite claim 9 in independent form. The applicants note that claim 36 (of similar scope to claim 9) includes the subject matter indicated by the Examiner as a reason for allowing claim 9, among others. As such, the applicants believe claims 9-17 and 36-44 are in condition for allowance.

The applicants previously presented claims 45 (claim 22 in independent form) and 46 (claim 35 in independent form) but the Examiner failed to comment. Since the Examiner indicated claims 22 and 35 as allowable if rewritten in independent form, the applicants believe claims 45 and 46 are likewise in condition for allowance.

Amendment

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**Claim Rejections Under § 112**

The Examiner rejects claims 1-4 and 28-30 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that the applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner indicates claims 1-4 and 28-30 as allowable if the §112 are overcome.


The applicants amend independent claims 1 and 28 as suggested by the Examiner to obviate the rejection. Claims 1-4 and 28-30 are in condition for allowance.

**Conclusion**

The applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims as amended. The applicants encourage the Examiner to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

Respectfully submitted,

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